

Annual Events and Programs

C.O.P.S. Camp

The Department partners with the Roanoke County Schools and Park, Recreation and Tourism Departments to provide county rising 7th or 8th graders an opportunity to experience an overnight residential camp. Activities include the challenging high ropes course, a 44 foot climbing wall, canoeing on the Spring Hollow Reservoir, mock crime scenes and many other activities. For two weeks during the summer of 2005, Camp Roanoke was home to 75 campers.



Open House

On the first Saturday in October, the Police Department opens its doors to the community. The open house has been a tradition since 1993. The Open House gives citizens an opportunity to tour the Department and watch many different demonstrations. Citizens are given the opportunity to drive or ride in a police car, take photos with the K-9s, or learn how to operate a RADAR unit. The Virginia State Police H.E.A.T. Program offers free Vehicle Identification Number etching to owners of motor vehicles. McGruff can be seen walking through the picnic area, greeting children and adults alike.

Rape Aggression Defense

The Department uses RAD certified instructors to teach women techniques of self defense against a sexual assault. Over 130 women have successfully completed the program since August 2002. The program is held once a week for four weeks, each session is three hours long. The RAD program is only for women. The classes are free to women ages 13 and above; students under 18 need parental permission.

If you are interested in learning more about the RAD program you can contact Officer Short or Detective Hook at (540) 561-8036 or e-mail rad@roanokecountyva.gov.

Child Safety Seat Inspection and Installation

The Department holds child safety seat inspections and installations once a month for citizens. Trained officers are available the first Thursday of each month, from 2:00pm until 4:00pm, at the Hollins Fire and Rescue Department #5 and at the Cave Spring Fire Department #3. For more information you can contact the Traffic Enforcement Unit at (540) 561-8040.



2005 National Night Out

National Night Out is a national event in which neighborhood watch groups demonstrate their support for police/community partnerships by giving crime a going away party. Neighborhood Watch groups across the country host these events each year on the first Tuesday in August.

On August 2, 2005, Chief Lavinder, his administrative staff, along with County Administrator Mr. Elmer Hodge and police officers in their districts, attended the 2005 National Night Out events across the County. These events ranged from cookouts and block parties to ice cream socials.

The following communities celebrated the 2005 National Night Out with an event: Glen Cove, Mt. Pleasant, Georgetown Park, Sun Valley, The Woodlands and Mayflower Hills.

Many communities have voiced their opinion that National Night Out helps revitalize their neighborhood spirit. If you are interested in celebrating National Night Out in your community, please contact the Crime Prevention Office at (540) 561-8062.



Citizen Police Academy

The purpose of the Citizens Police Academy is to educate citizens on police practices and procedures. The Roanoke County Citizen Police Academy was the first such program in Southwest Virginia. The Citizen Police Academy meets for three hours, one night a week for thirteen weeks.

If you are interested in attending the Citizen Police Academy, please call the Crime Prevention Office at (540) 561-8062 or e-mail rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov.



Topics include:

- K-9 Demonstration
- Crime Scene Investigation
- CALEA Accreditation
- Recruitment and selection process
- Polygraph
- Animal Control
- RADAR
- Mock Traffic Stops
- School Resource Officer Program
- DUI Testing and Prosecution
- Firearms Range—Participants are allowed to fire police issued weapons at the Roanoke Regional Firearms Range
- Driving Range—Participants are allowed to drive a police car through a series of low speed cone courses at the Laurel Mountain Police Driving Center
- Ride Along Program—Participants are given the opportunity to ride with a police officer during their shift

Congratulations to the Employees Receiving Awards in 2005!

Uniform Division Officer of the Year — Officer T.W. Kincaid

Officer Kincaid's keen eye for traffic violators resulted in Possession of Cocaine, Eluding Police, Larceny of a Vehicle and Suspended Operator's License charges. Kincaid also used his interviewing and observation skills to help solve a string of burglaries in North Roanoke County. He was also commended on his ability to share his experience with newer officers.



Rookie of the Year — Officer S.V. Snowden

Officer Snowden's Rookie Year was filled with hard work and dedication. Officer Snowden's good communication skills and report writing were recognized by other officers and detectives, as well as members of the community. As a newer officer, his exceptional professionalism and positive attitude was well received.

Special Operations Officer of the Year — Officer M.F. Jervis

Officer Jervis's dedication to the School Resource Officer program has been recognized by his peers for the third time. He organized the Annual C.O.P.S. Camp, has been instrumental in promoting the CYCLE program and serves on the Technical Committee for CYCLE. He also participates in extra-curricular activities at Cave Spring Middle, such as playing with the school band and chaperoning field trips.



Criminal Investigations Detective of the Year — Detective A.D. Thompson

Detective Thompson used his exceptional interviewing skills and thorough investigations to solve several difficult cases involving children as victims during this past year. His peers recognized his ability to deal with these types of cases professionally. Detective Thompson's dedication to the children in the community is evident by the work that he does.

Communications Officer of the Year — Communication Officer V.E. Clemson

Communication Officer Clemson was recognized because of her flexibility and willingness to help other dispatchers. She also maintained a level of calmness during a call where the caller's wife was stabbed by a relative.



Civilian of the Year — Ms. R.P. Kern

Crime Analyst Kern was recognized for assisting other employees with computer difficulties, serving as the Department's VCIN instructor and supporting the Department's Crime Prevention Program, especially the Citizen's Police Academy.

Leadership Award — Sergeant M.A. Cromer

2005 was the first year that the Leadership Award was given to a supervisor within the Department. Sgt. Cromer's leadership skills are evident in the work that he does. He instructs several key topics such as defensive tactics, firearms and DUI detection and enforcement. He is also the Department's SWAT Team Commander and Field Training Coordinator. He is always looking for ways to better himself and the Department, especially through technology.



Monthly Awards

The Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce recognizes extraordinary efforts of Roanoke County Police Officers with the Officer of the Month Award. This award is given to the officer in front of his/her peers and is accompanied by a plaque and savings bond.

The following officers received the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce Officer of the Month Award in 2005:

January: P.L. Farris
February: S.E. Maffe
March: N.L. Fitzgerald
April: S.C. Dillon
May: M.W. Torbert

June: D.J. Foster
August: K.P. Malloch
September: N.S. Short
November: J.A. McNamara
December: T.L. Wyatt

Chaplain Program

This past year included some changes within our Department's Chaplain program. The Reverend Dr. Tom Stocks, (or just plain Tom as he prefers to be called) served as Department Chaplain for the past ten years. However, his full time position as Pastor of Rosalind Hills Baptist Church, and growth of that successful ministry, sadly necessitated the need for him to step down. Officers discovered a valuable resource in Tom, from assisting those in crisis and handling of death notifications, to providing his services in matrimonial settings. Tom also participated as a member of the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Teams which aid the officers in significant events. Tom's heartfelt service to the Department was further evidenced in the funeral services he conducted for two of our lost colleagues. The Department appreciates his commitment, service and dedication to the employees, and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

To maintain and build upon our Chaplain program, Steven Harris has joined our ranks to serve as Department Chaplain. Steven is an ordained minister who is employed as a Counselor at the Pastoral Counseling Center in Roanoke. Steven came well recommended and has already been "called into service" for unfortunate events. We look forward to Steven's continued support and thank him for his service to the Department and community.